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HEALTH  
15 JUL 59  
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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WIGTON

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



for the year

1 9 5 8



HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

I. S. JONES                    M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health,  
also Assistant County Medical Officer  
and Medical Officer of Health to  
Penrith Urban District Council.

R. C. BLACKBURN            Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and  
S.I.E.J.B., Certificate in Meat and Food  
Inspection R.S.A. (Scot.),  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

A. PARTINGTON              Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and  
S.I.E.J.B., Meat Inspectors Certificates  
of the R.S.I.  
Additional Public Health Inspector.  
Appointed: 17th February, 1958.

F. E. HAMMOND              Clerk-Typist.



Telephone Number  
Wigton 433 & 434

Council Offices,  
WIGTON.

July, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Wigton Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to report to you as your Medical Officer on the health of the district for the year 1958.

The position generally is very satisfactory. The birth rate and death rate compare favourably with previous years but there seems to be a marked improvement in the infantile mortality rate which is the lowest it has ever been.

It is again a pleasure to report there were no maternal deaths during the year.

It was a record year for the low incidence of infectious disease, only ten cases other than tuberculosis being notified in the whole year. It is pleasing to report we had no poliomyelitis, no diphtheria and no measles.

The problem of tuberculosis is decreasing as will be seen by the figures given in the report but unfortunately cancer of the lung is increasing year by year. This presents a national problem.

I would like to see more progress made with the water scheme. Wigton town people are very pleased with their new supply. Districts such as Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket are anxiously awaiting a proper supply of water because until they get one there is no hope of sewerage schemes.

Once again I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support during the year and I wish to pay tribute to the help my colleagues on the staff have given me.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. SPEDDING JONES.

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres.....	138,620
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population.....	22,540
Population at Census of 1931.....	22,058
"    "    "    "    1951.....	23,733
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1958) according to rate books.....	7,083
Rateable Value.....	£208,293
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£818

## VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.....	189	196	385
Illegitimate.....	10	3	13
Total live births.....	199	199	398

Birth rate per  
1,000 population..... 17.65

### Still-births

Legitimate.....	3	4	7
Illegitimate.....	-	1	1
Total still-births.....	3	5	8

Still-birth rate per 1,000  
live and still-births..... 19.70

Total live and still-births..... 202      204      406

Infant deaths..... 6      2      8

Infantile mortality rate per  
1,000 live births - total..... 20.10  
ditto.      - legitimate..... 20.78  
ditto.      - illegitimate..... nil

Neo-natal mortality rate per  
1,000 live births..... 17.59

Illegitimate live births per  
cent of total live births..... 3.26

Maternal deaths (inc. abortion)... nil

Maternal mortality rate per  
1,000 live and still-births... nil

### Deaths

All causes.....	124	134	258
Death rate per 1,000 population... 11.49			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	24	25	49
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	-	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)...	-	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs old).	-	-	-



TABLE SHOWING THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR  
ENGLAND AND WALES AS A WHOLE, AND CERTAIN GROUPS  
IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, FOR THE YEAR 1958

	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales.....	16.4	11.7	22.5
Administrative County of Cumberland...	17.6	12.1	28.2
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven).....	18.0	12.6	35.1
Rural Districts of Cumberland.....	17.3	11.8	23.2
RURAL DISTRICT OF WIGTON.....	17.6	11.5	20.1

The following table gives particulars of infant deaths during the year 1958. Six of these died in hospital and two died at home.

In 1957, 13 infant deaths were recorded.

Cause	0-24 hours	1-7 days	3 weeks	3 months	Total
Broncho pneumonia.....	-	-	1	1	2
Prematurity.....	-	2	1	-	3
Atelectasis.....	1	-	-	-	1
Congenital heart.....	1	-	1	-	2
Total.....	2	2	3	1	8

TABLE SHOWING COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Population	Birth rate per 1,000 population	Death rate per 1,000 population	Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 population	Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births
1934	21,167	17.2	13.9	74.1	2.7
1935	21,075	16.3	14.2	<u>75.5</u>	-
1936	21,150	16.2	13.0	58.1	5.8
1937	20,920	16.2	15.0	64.8	-
1938	20,710	16.6	<u>14.3</u>	60.9	2.7
1939	21,680	16.0	14.2	65.6	2.8
1940	23,360	17.3	13.9	63.5	-
1941	23,480	17.0	12.0	35.0	4.8
1942	23,100	19.0	<u>11.1</u>	63.0	2.2
1943	22,640	19.7	12.8	44.0	<u>6.5</u>
1944	22,020	19.3	12.3	44.0	-
1945	21,660	19.7	12.5	46.0	2.3
1946	22,260	18.2	12.2	24.6	2.4
1947	22,460	<u>22.3</u>	12.9	40.0	-
1948	22,920	20.1	11.9	32.6	-
1949	23,000	18.5	12.1	37.7	4.6
1950	24,160	17.1	11.3	24.2	-
1951	23,760	16.9	13.5	37.3	-
1952	23,510	18.6	11.9	22.8	-
1953	23,410	17.6	12.9	21.8	-
1954	23,510	16.6	11.4	38.5	-
1955	23,450	18.0	12.0	23.7	-
1956	23,420	<u>15.5</u>	12.5	30.3	-
1957	23,290	<u>17.4</u>	11.9	30.9	-
1958	22,540	17.6	11.5	<u>20.1</u>	-
Average		17.8	12.7	43.2	1.5

N.B. Population figures for 1949 onwards include Service population.

Highest and lowest rate in each column under-scored.

In 1934 three Urbans and a Rural District were amalgamated to form the present Rural District Council.



# CAUSES OF DEATH

		M	F	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8.	Measles.....	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	7	3	10
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus....	3	1	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	6	6
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	11	25
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.....	-	1	1
16.	Diabetes.....	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	18	31	49
18.	Coronary disease, angina.....	25	16	41
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	5	6
20.	Other heart disease.....	20	27	47
21.	Other circulatory disease.....	1	6	7
22.	Influenza.....	1	-	1
23.	Pneumonia.....	6	2	8
24.	Bronchitis.....	5	5	10
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system...	1	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	3	-	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea....	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	-	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations.....	3	2	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	8	12	20
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents.....	1	2	3
35.	Suicide.....	3	-	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
	All causes.....	124	134	258



## WATER

I wish to thank Mr.J.R.Watters, the Water Engineer for the following report :-

### "Schedule of Parish Water Supplies - Year 1958

Parish	Dwelling Houses Existing	Population Estimated	Dwelling Houses Supplied	Population Supplied
Aspatria.....	1,008	3,527	1,008	3,527
Allhallows.....	211	739	208	730
Allonby.....	201	704	201	704
Aikton.....	131	458	131	458
Boltons.....	187	655	159	557
Bromfield.....	183	641	172	602
Bowness.....	427	1,495	424	1,484
Caldbeck.....	247	865	163	570
Dundraw.....	49	172	49	172
Holme St. Cuthbert..	145	508	144	504
Holme Abbey.....	218	764	214	751
Holme East Waver....	92	322	89	311
Holme Low.....	112	393	111	389
Hayton.....	67	235	66	231
Ireby.....	169	592	126	441
Kirkbride.....	146	510	145	508
Kirkbampton.....	99	346	92	321
Silloth.....	986	3,451	986	3,451
Sebergham.....	110	384	98	342
Thursby.....	252	882	251	878
Torpenhow.....	175	612	164	574
Wigton.....	1,368	4,787	1,366	4,781
Waverton.....	106	370	98	343
Westward.....	222	776	188	658
Woodside.....	182	637	181	632
Westnewton.....	74	259	74	259
Total.....	7,167	25,084	6,908	24,178

The above figures include a number of holiday chalets and caravans which are rated in camp fields, but may only be part-time occupied, as well as hutments occupied on Ex-R.A.F. sites.

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Water supplies throughout 1958 have been generally well maintained and by the end of the year, when it is hoped that the outstanding work on Stage 3 of the Development Scheme will be completed, the remaining bad sources covered by that scheme will be eliminated. There remains, however, the insistent demand for improvement which it is intended to deal with in Stage 4 of the Development Scheme.



The existing conditions in Caldbeck parish must be regarded as dangerous, firstly because of the consistently bad reports on bacteriological examination of the water, and secondly because of the increasing danger of contamination of a more serious nature on the Hesket Newmarket village supply, or even the total failure of that supply.

The latter small spring source lies but a few yards from the surface works of the Sandbed barytes mine, and in such a remote district it is quite likely that any existing sanitation facilities will at times be disregarded, and contamination of the water by human excreta is more than probable.

There is also the probability that the operation of the mine may drain away all the water from that source and leave Hesket village entirely without water.

The position in other parishes, i.e. Torpenhow, Bromfield, Holme Low and Holme East Waver, where supplies are intermittent all the year round, is becoming serious from the point of view of sanitation, as well as milk production.

Consumers in all these deficiency areas have been paying towards the cost, throughout the past ten years, of the considerable improvement which has been afforded to the larger area of the Rural District, and they now feel, perhaps not without some justification, that, having dealt with the deficiency in the central and more clamant areas, the powers that be have not shown the same interest and enthusiasm in dealing with the no less serious complaint of the more remote districts.

I included these matters in your 1957 Report with some expectation that steps would shortly be taken to deal with them, but unfortunately, another year has gone by without any apparent advance in the preparation of the necessary scheme for improvement in these outlying districts.

(sgd.) J.R. WATERS.

Water Engineer."

In my last annual report I anticipated the new supply to Wigton town being available by the end of the year. This was not so but did materialise very shortly afterwards and now Wigton has a very good, safe and wholesome supply.



## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Pollution of Sneckyeat Beck - Although Greenrow pumping station at Silloth has been dealt with and new pumps installed, there still remains the problem of pollution of Sneckyeat beck which has been referred to in my previous reports. It is hoped that the diversion of the sullage water from the various properties in the neighbourhood of Golf Terrace, Prospect Place, Beaconsfield Terrace and Blitterlees into the new sewerage system during the current year, will obviate any further risk of nuisance on the part of this Council.

Allonby - The unsatisfactory syphon across the beck at Allonby was replaced by a new sewer carried across the beck by a steel pipe. It has given no trouble since this work was completed in November, 1958.

Oulton - I am glad to say this sewerage scheme was completed in February, 1959.

## SCHOOLS

Holme St. Cuthberts School which was one of the poorest as far as sanitation is concerned has been completely modernised and extended. There is water borne sanitation and the County have made a really first class job here.

Westward School - This school has had water borne sanitation for some years now but the other amenities are poor considering the number of children at the school. I understand that the Church authorities contemplate building a new school here.

Oulton School - The County have a scheme for improving this school and they have been waiting for the sewerage scheme to come to the village. I hope 1959 will see this school improved in the same way as Holme St. Cuthberts has been improved.

Kirkbampton - This school still has a privy midden. Some of the County officials have recently inspected this school including the County Medical Officer so I am hopeful that this state of affairs may soon be terminated.

Fingland - This is quite a pleasant little school but the chemical closets leave much to be desired.

Hayton, Biglands and Drumburgh - Hayton and Biglands have chemical closets and Drumburgh still has pail closets. Some of these very small schools may be closed in the not too distant future so improvement is unlikely.



## SCHOOL CANTEENS

A lot of work has been done throughout the area on bringing the school canteens up to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. On the 2nd December a sub-committee from the County Education Authority discussed the matter of school canteens with a sub-committee of this Council. The County Council's difficulties were appreciated and it was decided the matter be left in abeyance for a period of six months when a further report would be submitted.

## NEW CLINIC AND OCCUPATION CENTRE, BIRDCAGE WALK, WIGTON

This building was practically completed by the end of the year and came into occupation at Whitsuntide, 1959.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

The old lady from Port Carlisle is still in hospital under Order of the Court. In this case it is necessary to ask for renewal of this Order every three months.

Arrangements were made for one other case to be removed to hospital voluntarily. In this instance the old lady had been under medical care in hospital but was unable to fend for herself on discharge. She was given medical care and is still being cared for in this manner.

## HOUSING

It is now approximately two years since a house was built by The North Eastern Housing Association Limited for this authority. Fortunately a resumption of building activity is foreshadowed by the Council's interest in the "Clinicon" house, and it seems likely that thirty of these will be commenced in the year 1959.

In any future housing programme I hope the interests of the old folk will be to the fore as I feel they have had insufficient consideration in the Council's post-war building programme.

Thirteen private dwellinghouses were completed during the year.



## INDIVIDUAL UNFIT DWELLINGS

The following table gives particulars of the action taken by the Council :-

### Demolition Orders:

× St. Nicholas Cottages, Bowness-on-Solway..... 2  
(not demolished)

### Closing Orders (Section 17):

× Moss Side Farm, Kirkbride.....	1	
Elm Cottage, Hesket Newmarket.....	1	
25, Station Road, Wigton.....	1	
7, Bolton-new-houses, Wigton.....	1	4
		<hr/>
		6
		<hr/>

× Denotes action commenced in a previous year.

The small number of houses dealt with during the year, as shown in the above table, is accounted for by the fact that no building operations took place during the year. There is little point in condemning houses unless one has alternative accommodation to offer.

## OVERCROWDING

The following comparative table shows the position regarding overcrowding throughout the area :-

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	53	45	58	21	25	17	10	8	5	4
No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	13	8	27	1	13	2	5	4	1	1
No. of cases of overcrowding re- lieved during the year.....	44	16	14	38	9	10	12	6	4	2

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified (other than tuberculosis) during the year :-

Disease	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25 & over	Total	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	-	-	4	-	-	4	-
Whooping Cough	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	1	8
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
	-	2	4	2	2	10	8

Influenza: The incidence of influenza was comparatively light during 1958. One death was recorded.

Pneumonia: The fact that primary pneumonia is the only notifiable form of the disease accounts for the apparent discrepancy in the previous table which shows only one notified case and eight deaths.

Measles: There were no notifications of measles. It is most unusual to have a whole year clear and I cannot remember it ever happening before. Last year there were 434 cases notified.

Whooping Cough: The story here is very similar. There were two cases notified as compared with 144 cases in the previous year.

Whooping cough vaccination is reducing the incidence of this disease throughout the country. In the Wigton rural area during the year 122 children were vaccinated against this disease by their own doctors.

Poliomyelitis: Fortunately we were free from this disease during the year under review. I give a table which shows the incidence of the disease and deaths therefrom over the past ten years

<u>Year</u>	<u>Notific- ations:</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Notific- ations:</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1949	8	-	1954	-	-
1950	-	-	1955	1	-
1951	1	-	1956	-	-
1952	-	-	1957	-	-
1953	9	-	1958	-	-



Vaccination against poliomyelitis was continued during 1958. The following table gives a summary of the work done up to the 31st December, 1958.

	<u>1958</u>	<u>'57</u>	<u>'56</u>	<u>'55</u>	<u>'54</u>	<u>'53</u>	<u>'52</u>	<u>'51</u>	<u>'50</u>	<u>'49</u>	<u>'48</u>
Awaiting.....	24	37	31	28	13	21	7	20	15	20	11
Had 1 injection.	31	23	4	5	1	1	-	2	1	-	-
Had 2 injections	45	197	210	221	206	271	299	306	307	297	313
Had 3 injections	-	-	44	58	74	19	26	22	22	30	27
Total											
registration.	100	257	289	312	294	312	332	350	345	347	351

	<u>1947</u>	<u>'46</u>	<u>'45</u>	<u>'44</u>	<u>'43</u>	<u>'42</u> <u>to</u> <u>'33</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>AMB</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>Total</u>
Awaiting.....	18	7	5	7	45	-	29	-	-	338
Had 1 injection.	3	-	-	-	5	72	8	-	-	156
Had 2 injections	365	272	301	283	254	398	45	1	14	4,605
Had 3 injections	35	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	359
Total										
registration.	421	279	306	290	304	472	82	1	14	5,458

Diphtheria: For the tenth successive year we have had no case of diphtheria in the area. In 1957 the total number of cases notified in England and Wales was 37 and there were six deaths.

The immunisation against diphtheria was rather neglected during the year owing to the pressure of poliomyelitis vaccination. In the Wigton Rural District 140 primary immunisations were carried out and 17 children were given a booster or re-inforcing dose.

Food poisoning: No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

Dysentery: One case of sonne dysentery occurred during the year. This is a very mild infection as a rule but causes some inconvenience for the patient.

Cancer: Of 85,799 cancer deaths registered in England and Wales during 1958, 19,809 were due to cancer of the lung. It appears from statistics that deaths from cancer of the lung are increasing at the rate of approximately 1,000 cases a year.

The following table gives the number of deaths from cancer in the Wigton Rural District since 1950 :-



1950	-	19	deaths including	2	cancer of the lung.
1951	-	41	"	5	" " " "
1952	-	34	"	8	" " " "
1953	-	36	"	2	" " " "
1954	-	40	"	5	" " " "
1955	-	45	"	4	" " " "
1956	-	44	"	3	" " " "
1957	-	43	"	3	" " " "
1958	-	49	"	4	" " " "

## TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of cases notified and of the deaths during 1958 :-

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55.....	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
55-65.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	-

In addition to the six new cases there were eight cases added to the register as inward transfers from other areas. Twentytwo cases left the district and one recovered.

The following table gives the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1958 :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary.....	79	74	153
Non-pulmonary.....	10	19	29
All forms of Tuberculosis.....	89	93	182



Below is a table giving the number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis in the area during the last ten years :-

Year	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1949	4	5	1	-	10
1950	4	5	1	-	10
1951	2	2	-	-	4
1952	1	1	-	1	3
1953	-	2	-	-	2
1954	2	-	-	-	2
1955	1	-	-	-	1
1956	-	-	-	-	-
1957	-	-	-	-	-
1958	1	-	-	-	1

RESULTS OF B.C.G. VACCINATION FOR 13-14 YEAR AGE GROUP.  
MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY OF CHILDREN  
WHOSE PARENTS RETURNED CONSENT FORMS FOR MANTOUX TESTING  
AND B.C.G. VACCINATION IF NECESSARY.

School	No. of children Mantoux tested	No. of those with satisfactory M.M.R.	No. of those with unsatisfactory M.M.R.	No. who did not have M.M.R.
Silloth.....	44	-	-	44
Wigton Sec. Mod.	85	79	2	4
Wigton Grammar..	68	66	-	2
Wigton R.C.....	4	4	-	-
Bowness.....	7	6	-	1
Aspatia.....	23	-	-	23
Bromfield.....	2	-	-	2
Westnewton.....	2	-	-	2
Allhallows.....	12	-	-	12
Blennerhasset...	-	-	-	-
Torpenhow.....	1	-	-	1
Friends, Wigton.	32	-	-	32
St. Ursula's, ".	8	-	-	8
Totals.....	288	155	2	131

RESULTS OF MANTOUX TESTING AND B.C.G. VACCINATION  
FOR CHILDREN IN 13/14 YEAR AGE GROUP (1944)

School	No. of children Mantoux tested	No. absent after first Mantoux test	No. found to be Mantoux positive	No. found to be Mantoux negative	No. given B.C.G. vaccination
Silloth.....	44	-	10	34	34
Wigton Sec. Mod.	85	-	12	73	73
Wigton Grammar..	68	-	12	56	56
Wigton R.C.....	4	-	-	4	4
Bowness.....	7	-	2	5	5
Aspatia.....	23	-	5	18	18
Bromfield.....	2	-	-	2	2
Westnewton.....	2	-	1	1	1
Allhallows.....	12	-	1	11	11
Torpenhow.....	-	-	-	-	-
Blennerhasset...	1	-	1	-	-
Friends, Wigton.	32	-	6	26	26
St. Ursula's, ".	8	-	2	6	6
Totals.....	288	-	52	236	236



PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS: B.C.G. vaccination was again carried out throughout the county. The following tables give the work done in the Wigton Rural District.

SCHEME OF B.C.G. VACCINATION FOR 13-14 YEAR AGE GROUP. MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY

School	Children in 1944 age group	Children in 1944 age group who had Mass Radiography Report	Consents given for B.C.G. vaccination	Number of those with satisfactory Mass Radiography Report	Number of those with unsatisfactory Mass Radiography Report and called for Large Film	
					Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Silloth.....	51	-	44	-	-	-
Wigton Sec. Mod.	124	123	85	121	-	2
Wigton Grammar..	95	80	68	80	-	-
Wigton R.C.....	8	6	4	6	-	-
Bowness.....	9	8	8	8	-	-
Aspatria.....	27	-	24	-	-	-
Bromfield.....	2	-	2	-	-	-
Westnewton.....	2	-	2	-	-	-
Althallows.....	12	-	12	-	-	-
Blennerhasset...	2	-	-	-	-	-
Torpenhow.....	1	-	1	-	-	-
Friends, Wigton.	42	-	32	-	-	-
St. Ursula's, "	14	-	8	-	-	-
Totals.....	389	217	290	215	-	2

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

I wish to thank Mr.A.Garratt, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cumberland County Council, for the following report on the number of samples taken in the area during the year 1958 :-

MILK		OTHER THAN MILK		TOTAL SAMPLES
Genuine	Not Genuine	Genuine	Not Genuine	
44	25	27	nil	96

### Schedule of Articles Sampled (other than milk)

Beef Dripping		Jelly	
Beef Suet		Lard	(2)
Bitter Beer		Lemon Curd	
Butter	(4)	Lemon Foam Crystals	
Buttered Fudge		Ribena	
Buttered Rum Eclairs		Soup - Kidney	
Desiccated Coconut		- Mushroom	
Dried Egg		Tinned Tomatoes	
Ground Almonds		Vinegar	
Ice Cream	(5)		

### Unsatisfactory Samples

Four samples of milk, from same source of supply, contained added water. Farmer concerned was prosecuted and fined £50 plus £5.5s.0d. costs.

Sixteen samples of milk contained added water. Farmer concerned was cautioned.

Three samples of milk were certified to be genuine but sub-standard. The farmer was advised to take steps to improve the quality of the milk and with the assistance of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and Feeding Stuffs Manufacturers, this has now been attained.

Two samples of milk from another source were also sub-standard but genuine and the same action was taken.



PORT OF SILLOTH

I wish to thank Mr. A. Dodge, H.M. Customs & Excise Officer,  
for the following particulars :-

STATEMENT OF TRADE FOR THE YEAR 1958

Arrivals:	No. of ships:	Nature of Cargoes:
From foreign ports with cargo.....	61 <sup>x</sup>	Wheat, Basic Slag, Potash, Pyrites, Scrap Ingot Moulds, Perlite and Fertilisers from Europe; Phosphates from North Africa.
From the Republic of Ireland.....	1	Wheat.
From British ports in ballast.....	8	To land coal for other British ports and Republic of Ireland; Fertilisers for other British ports; Ingot Moulds for Europe.
From British ports with cargo.....	64	Grain.
	134	

<sup>x</sup> includes six via another British port.

(sgd.) A. DODGE

Customs & Excise.

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

## Part I of the Act

### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

	Number on Register	Inspection	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	7	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	85	5	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)...	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	92	5	-	-

### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were in- stituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable tem- perature.....	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventil- ation.....	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drain- age of floors....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conven- iences					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective...	1	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work).....	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	1	-	-	-	-



R E P O R T

on the

Work Carried Out

by the

Public Health Inspectors

During the Year





To Dr. I. S. Jones,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in contributing the following pages to the report.

In February Mr. A. Partington was appointed Additional Public Health Inspector and has proved himself conversant with all the duties appertaining to his office. He is thorough and painstaking in his work.

## HOUSING

### Council Housing Waiting List

The building of local authority houses was at a standstill during the year and the waiting list increased by 53, resulting in a total of 380 applicants. Of these there is a nucleus of hardship cases of great merit, but a study of the list shows a marked change in the circumstances of applicants as compared with a few years ago. On the other hand I know there are those to whom financial stringency and the prevailing high rents are such deterrents that they do not even trouble to make application.

In this connection I mention the vexed question of rent adjustment, for the third successive year. The need for such is now recognised but many months of seemingly abortive discussion drag on, and meantime the families which really need the Council's help in finding other accommodation just go on waiting.

As inferred last year, some of the old folks will no longer need the bungalows to which they have looked forward so long. Nine old people's dwellings out of a post-war total of 759 houses is hardly a record of which to be proud. I can only express the pious hope once more that the Council will salve its conscience on this important issue.

### The Rent Act, 1957

This important Act got properly under way in 1958. I fully expected a spate of applications for certificates of



disrepair during the early stages of the year, but surprisingly only sixteen were received in the whole twelve months. Arising out of this nine formal undertakings on the part of owners were given, offering to carry out the necessary repair works upheld by the Council, and in the remaining seven instances certificates of disrepair were furnished to the tenants. In addition four certificates of disrepair were granted and two undertakings by landlords accepted in respect of cases carried over from the previous year.

In three cases it was necessary to formally remind owners of their failure to honour their undertakings. At the close of the year these matters had not been resolved.

I am at a loss to understand the sparing use of certain provisions of the Act in this area, requiring the remedy of defects of repair consequent upon an increase in rent. On the other hand, as far as can be ascertained, the rent increase clause has been made use of extensively.

In large towns, where house and estate agents are engaged much more so than in rural areas, and where the relationship between landlord and tenant is more impersonal, I believe greater use will have been made of this Act, and to more telling effect. Also, amongst the poorer classes of tenant there is a deep rooted fear of eviction; a fear mostly groundless in these days.

### Restoration of Unfit Houses

A Closing Order under the Housing Act was determined in respect of one house, the owner having restored the property to a state suitable for habitation.

### Occupation of Clearance Area Houses

One pre-war clearance area house is still held under requisition, and in addition three such houses are occupied by squatters. All four houses are in the same clearance area in Aspatria.

### Improvement Grants

Twentyeight applications for grants were considered by the Council, although 69 cases were actually investigated on site during the year. This compares with 34 applications and 98 enquiries in the previous year. The number of visits for all purposes was 351.



Twentytwo applications were finalised resulting in 22 units of accommodation.

In the year under review 13 units of accommodation were owner-occupied and 9 were tenanted.

The total approved expenditure on these works amounted to £13,809 of which £5,484 was borne by way of grant. Of this £5,484 the ratepayer pays twentyfive per cent and the taxpayer seventyfive per cent.

There are still doubts in the minds of some as to the wisdom of making these grants. Had the Council not been operating the seheme in 1958 a small saving would have accrued to the ratepayers, but local taxpayers would have continued to subsidise improvements to properties in other areas. Having regard to the apportionment of cost as between taxpayer and ratepayer of three to one in the payment of these grants, it is surely expedient to continue to operate the scheme.

Any question of a nation wide cessation would be another matter.

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED BY MEANS OF GRANT UNDER  
HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958 - SECT. 30

Conversions to water carriage system.....	13
By way of septic tanks.....	9
Connections to Council's sewers.....	4
New drains laid.....	19
Water closets provided.....	20
Washbasins and sinks provided.....	38
New ranges and grates provided.....	31
Hot water laid on.....	18
Electricity installations.....	10
Additional bedrooms provided.....	2
Kitchens provided.....	4
Kitchens improved.....	13
Bathrooms built.....	9
Bathrooms converted from other accommodation.....	12
New floors laid.....	33
Windows enlarged.....	11
Food stores provided.....	12
Rooms heightened.....	-
Paths provided.....	4
Fuel stores provided.....	3
Conversions to housing accommodation.....	-
Washing facilities provided.....	1
Dampness remedied.....	20



# HOUSING STATISTICS

## 1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :-

(1)(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	25
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	85
(2)(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations.....	3
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	3
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	3
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	24

## 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :-

	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....	16
--	---	----

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-

(1)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :-	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	-
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(i)	By owners.....	-
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners..	-
(2)	Proceedings under Public Health Act :-	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.....	-
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
(i)	By owners.....	-
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners..	-



(3) Proceedings under sections 16, 17, 23, 24 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1957 :-

(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	2
(b) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	5
(c) Number of Demolition Orders revoked - dwellinghouses made fit.....	-
(d) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	4
(e) Number of dwellinghouses closed in pursuance of Closing Orders.....	1
(f) Number of Closing Orders determined, the accommodation having been rendered fit.....	1
(g) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which undertakings were accepted by the Council.....	-
(h) Number of undertakings cancelled - dwellinghouses made fit.....	3

(4) Proceedings under section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957 :-

(a) Number of Closing Orders made.....	-
(b) Number closed in pursuance of Closing Orders...	1
(c) Number of Closing Orders determined, the accommodation having been rendered fit.....	-

4. Housing Act, 1957 - Part IV - Overcrowding :-

(1)(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	4
(b) Number of families dwelling therein.....	4
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein.....	30
(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	1
(3)(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	2
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases.....	17



## FOOD AND DRUGS

### Meat Inspection

In the two previous years I was able to report that no case of tuberculosis had been found in bovine animals, but two such cases of localised tuberculosis are on record for 1958. Even so, freedom from serious disease is noticeable in animals slaughtered in the area. Local butchers buy first grade young animals, so that good results are only to be expected. Of course this is just as it should be when one recalls the reputation the area has as a stock rearing centre. Of 1312 bovines slaughtered only 11 were cows, and some of these were brought in as casualties.

Five cases of cysticercus bovis were detected, all of them localised, and the carcasses were subjected to cold storage below 20°F. for a period of 21 days. The known affected parts were condemned in accordance with normal practice.

### Registration of premises

Three ice cream retailers' premises were added to the register.

As mentioned in my last report some butchers' premises used for the making of sausages, potted and pickled meats, which require registration under the Act, were incapable of satisfactory adaptation and in three instances new premises had to be found.

### Food Hygiene Regulations

In the early part of the year a survey of all licensed premises in the area was made and a lengthy list of shortcomings was compiled as a result. Exchange of letters and in some cases discussions took place with owners and satisfactory undertakings to bring their premises up to standard were eventually received.

Much of the structural work involved is now proceeding, although it will take a considerable time to finalise. When one realises that many thousands of pounds are involved for most of the brewery companies trading in the area, also that in some cases reconstruction schemes far exceeding the demands of any regulations are contemplated, some tolerance over the question of the time factor is well worth while.



The survey also took account of the Public Health Act requirement concerning the provision of adequate sanitary accommodation, and it was in this direction that the greatest shortcomings were noted, and incidentally where the greatest expense is involved in providing a remedy.

The remedy of food hygiene shortcomings requested at food premises generally throughout the district proceeds somewhat slowly, but it is gratifying to know that in only one case has an actual refusal to comply been encountered, and this involves a trader who is going out of business in any event.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED, AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART  
AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR AND PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows:	Cows:	Calves:	Sheep and Lambs:	Pigs:
Number killed (a)	1044	11	3	2726	1835
Number killed (b)	253	-	1	288	77
Total.....	1297	11	4	3014	1912
Number inspected (a)	1044	11	3	2726	1835
Number inspected (b)	253	-	1	30	77
Total.....	1297	11	4	2756	1912
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	1	1	45	5
Percentage.....	0.08	9.01	25.00	1.49	0.29
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	70	-	-	30	14
Percentage.....	5.40	-	-	0.99	0.74
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	2	-	-	-	54
Percentage.....	0.16	-	-	-	2.82
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	5	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	5	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned..	-	-	-	-	-

NOTE      (a) = work carried out at the Public Abattoir  
              (b) = work carried out at Private Slaughterhouses.



PRINCIPAL GROUNDS OF CONDEMNATION OF CARCASSES AND OFFAL  
AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR AND PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Bovine lbs.	Calves lbs.	Sheep lbs.	Pigs lbs.
Abscesses.....	685	-	16	30
Actinobacillosis.....	36	-	-	-
Bacterial necrosis....	46	-	-	9
Bruising.....	58	-	230	17
Cirrhosis.....	310	-	67	25
Cysticercus Bovis.....	214	-	-	-
Emaciation.....	-	-	125	-
Fever.....	750	-	670	344
Immaturity.....	-	56	-	-
Moribund.....	-	-	255	-
Oedema.....	-	-	696	63
Peritonitis.....	63	-	46	18
Pleurisy.....	-	-	86	21
Pneumonia.....	-	-	163	5
Tuberculosis.....	177	-	-	970
Uraemia.....	-	-	-	357
Totals.....	2339	56	2354	1859

PARTICULARS OF FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN  
CONSUMPTION AT PLACES OTHER THAN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Bacon.....	374	lbs.
Canned Meat.....	512	lbs.
" Milk.....	188	lbs.
" Vegetables.....	119	lbs.
" Fish.....	9	lbs.
" Fruit.....	439	lbs.
Cereal.....	5	lbs.
Wet Fish.....	8	stone

ICE CREAM SAMPLING RESULTS

Grade:	Local manu- facture by heat treat- ment method:	Local manu- facture by 'cold mix' method:	Wrapped or cartoned proprietary brands:
1	6	5	7
2	8	1	-
3	1	1	-
4	2	1	-



## REFUSE REMOVAL

I have now had an opportunity of making comparison between the diesel and petrol driven refuse vehicles. The Aspatria 7 cubic yard Karrier runs on diesel fuel and has averaged 15.8 miles per gallon, compared with 7.3 miles per gallon for a similar vehicle at Silloth running on petrol. The Wigton 10 cubic yard petrol driven Dennis works out at 6.6 miles per gallon.

With diesel fuel costing only 1½d per gallon more than petrol there would appear to be considerable advantage in its use, but of course one must take into account the increased initial cost of a diesel engined vehicle, which is in the region of £120 for the size of engine under comparison.

It is estimated that within eleven months this disparity is made good and the economies of using diesel fuel are felt. In addition a diesel engine is normally easier to maintain and has a longer life.

Adequate maintenance of the eleven widely scattered refuse tips in the area remains a problem. Part-time attention is paid by tip attendants to the disposal sites at Silloth, Angerton, Bowness and Wigton, and at the other places superficial tidying up is done by the refuse crews when they are tipping. Fortunately no serious nuisance arises, but some of these places do offend the eye at times, and this is due in large measure to the activities of others.

I do not take exception to the public themselves using the Council's refuse tips if it is done in a decent manner, with due regard to the needs of others. At least it may prevent wanton despoiling of the countryside elsewhere, but the senseless and indiscriminate activities of some people make one despair.

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING WEIGHT OF WASTE  
PAPER SALVAGED

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>
1942.....	158	10
1943.....	131	12
1944.....	131	17
1945.....	80	3
1946.....	104	6
1947.....	77	7
1948.....	105	3
1949.....	117	13
1950.....	91	10
1951.....	102	14
1952.....	71	9
1953.....	42	6
1954.....	44	0
1955.....	37	5
1956.....	49	19
1957.....	28	8
1958.....	32	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1406	19
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The income from the 1958 yield amounted to £229.15s.6d.



## RODENT CONTROL

During the year 35 houses were inspected as a result of notification, 28 of which were found to be infested and treated. Four business premises were similarly inspected and found to be infested and given treatment, for which a charge was made.

Twenty sewerage schemes were examined and pre-baited with harmless bait to ascertain the extent of any infestation. Arising out of this infestations were indicated at Fletchertown, Allonby, Hayton and Wigton and appropriate control measures were put in hand.

Only three rechargeable treatments were undertaken at agricultural properties. Most farmers choose to control infestation on their premises by means of the handy and effective poisons now readily available to them. I believe however, that there is a greater awareness of the problem as a result of inspections by the Council's operative, and the knowledge that he will be revisiting.

During the year Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food contracts were running down in anticipation of the cessation of this service at the 31st March, 1959. As notice of termination of such contracts was received from the Ministry, visits were made to the farmers concerned to ascertain their intentions for the future. In nearly all cases it was found that contracts had been entered into with an experienced operative of the Ministry, who has set up in business on his own account.

The accompanying table, which is a copy of the annual return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food relating to the year ended 31st March, 1959 gives further details of the work undertaken in pest destruction. For convenience all reference to rodent control in this report is related to this period.

Eighteen weeks of the operative's time during the year was taken up with other duties, and sick leave accounted for one week. Add to this three weeks annual holiday including public holidays and it will be seen that 30 weeks was devoted to rodent control duties.

The 5 cwt. van used in this service covered 4,896 miles and gave every satisfaction at reasonable cost, only normal servicing being required. The mileage per gallon averages 40.



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Local Auth- ority	Dwell- ing Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All other (inc. Bus- iness Premises)	Agric- ultural
No. of properties in Local Authority's district.....	39	5,960	762	1,151
No. of properties in- spected as a result of:				
(a) Notification.....	1	35	4	70
(b) Survey under the Act	11	-	-	911
(c) Otherwise.....	27	-	-	-
Total inspections carried out inc. re-inspections.	32	35	4	981
No. of properties in- spected which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats      {Major.....	-	-	-	-
{Minor.....	12	23	3	176
(b) Mice     {Major.....	-	-	-	-
{Minor.....	-	5	1	2
No. of infested pro- perties treated by L.A..	12	28	4	3
Total treatments carried out including re- treatments.....	32	28	4	3
No. of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:				
(a) Treatment.....	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural work.....	-	-	-	-
No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act.....	-	-	-	-
Legal proceedings.....	-	-	-	-
Number of 'Block' control schemes carried out.....				
1				



# SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Housing Act, 1957.....	106
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.....	351
Housing Consolidated Regulations.....	3
Rent Act, 1957.....	52
Public Health Act, 1936.....	158
Housing defects.....	39
Otherwise.....	119
Drains examined and/or tested.....	74
Building Byelaws.....	67
Housing applications.....	283
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.....	1086
Food preparation rooms.....	61
Distributors of milk.....	12
Food shops.....	474
Dairies.....	11
Public abattoir.....	295
Private slaughterhouses.....	202
Knackers Yard.....	1
Unsound food in shops.....	27
Markets.....	3
Factories Act, 1937/48.....	7
Refuse removal.....	87
Refuse tips.....	70
Complaints regarding service.....	17
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.....	1235
Sewers.....	59
Other than sewers.....	1176
Camping sites and moveable dwellings.....	26
Infectious disease.....	28
Shops Act, 1950.....	25
Unclassified.....	113

# SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

<u>Informal</u>	<u>Served</u>	<u>Complied with</u>
Public Health Act, 1936.....	89	36
Housing Act, 1957.....	9	2
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.....	117	61
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.....	14	7
Factories Acts, 1937/48.....	2	1
	<hr/> 231	<hr/> 107

Robert C. Blackburn  
Chief Public Health Inspector.





